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## PUBLIC EVENTS.

DURING the last month, our relations to the different powers of Europe, have continued to be of the most pacific kind. As we anticipated, the war in Peru has at length terminated in the overthrow of Spanish tyranny, and in the establishment of liberty in the land of the INCAS. The recognition of the different South American Republics, has opened up new channels to British spirit and enterprise.

The intelligence from India is calculated to excite alarm. There has been not merely a spirit of insubordination, but an actual mutiny in the native army. The Government of thirty millions of men sunk in the depths of superstition, and smarting under the lash of conquest, requires a continuation of wisdom, vigour, and prudence, united to an enlightened spirit of liberality.

In the United States of America, Mr. Adams has been elected to the President's chair, an appointment which has given general satisfaction.

In the West Indies the spirit of insurrection continues to prevail. An insurrection in the Island of St. Thomas was discovered, in time to prevent the atrocities to which it might have led.

With respect to Greece—that land of heroes' graves,—the last month has brought us little additional information. It has been generally reported that the Emperor of Russia has peremptorily refused his as-

sent to any proposition acknowledging the independence of that interesting country.. We expected no less from the autocrat of the Russias. The Ottoman despots are making preparations to renew their tyrannical campaign against the cause of liberty. An attempt has been made on the life of the Grand Seignior; and the splendour of the crescent has been dimmed by the blood of rebellious Janissaries.

France, occupied in all probability in the splendours attendant upon the coronation of Charles X., remains tranquil.

In England the mania for Joint Stock Companies is upon the decline. The Legislature have wisely determined not to interfere; and the recent speculations afford an additional proof of the growing wealth and increasing prosperity of the country.

With respect to this portion of the kingdom—societies, whether Orange or Roman Catholic, have been quietly suppressed by the Bill respecting unlawful societies in Ireland. The leaders, in both instances, have wisely made their bows, addressed their supporters temperately and respectfully, and then retired.

At present, the proposed Bill for the Emancipation of our Roman Catholic brethren, the second reading of which is fixed for the 19th of this month, occupies the attention both of the friends and opponents of that measure.

## PROGRESS OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.

## BELFAST MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

IN the first Number of the Magazine, we offered some remarks on the importance of Mechanics' Institutions, and recommended the formation of one in Belfast. We now feel pleasure in stating, that efficient measures have been adopted for carrying this important object into effect, a public meeting having been held in the Exchange, on the 21st ult., at which the establishment of such an association in this place was agreed on; and two Committees were appointed, one to draw up rules and regulations for conducting the affairs of the Institute, and the other to take steps for procuring the necessary funds. The first Committee is to submit a draught of the regulations to a General Meeting, to be held in the beginning of May, when they will be adopted or amended as may appear best to the members at large.

We trust that the wonted liberality of our townsmen, and of the gentlemen around us, will be extended to this establishment, which seems likely to be of so much advantage to this town, and to the sur-

rounding country. The gentlemen who are engaged in manufactures in particular, are fully impressed, we have no doubt, with the importance of having the men whom they employ, intelligent and well acquainted with the principles and practice of the various occupations in which they are engaged: and we trust these gentlemen will contribute liberally to the objects of the Institute. One of the most important of these objects is the formation of a Library. To courses of lectures, the artisans in this place have already had access, but we fear that few of them have had the means of consulting approved books. A strong effort should be made, therefore, to raise a considerable sum of money for this purpose, and to procure donations of useful works, on Science and Art. Models and apparatus should also be procured as soon as circumstances may permit; and in respect to this, much may be done by the artisans themselves, many of whom will be able to construct articles of this kind, which they will doubtless present to the Institute.

DUBLIN PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL, AND  
SCIENTIFIC REVIEW.

The first Number of a new publication, of the above title, has just issued from the Dublin press. We feel great pleasure in noticing any attempt that is made to call forth the literary and scientific energies of our country; and we wish every success to this publication, which is the first of an expressly scientific nature that has been attempted in Ireland.

This Number commences with a paper on the method of finding the longitude from the culmination of the moon and stars, by Dr. Brinkley,—an auspicious name to place at the beginning of a scientific periodical. There is also part of a paper from Dr. Lloyd on Pity,—rather a strange subject for the *first* contribution from one of the most distinguished *mathematicians* in Ireland, to *such* a work. The portion of the Essay here given is only preliminary to the author's main object. In the remainder of the paper, he proposes to ascertain, First, the principle of the moral constitution affected when our compassion is excited, and the means by which its sensibility is awakened; and, Secondly, the nature of the representation by which the original affection is made to receive the particular form of pity. It would be premature to say any thing of the object of his inquiries, till the details are laid before us, which cannot be before November next. The present paper contains some good observations in favour of the existence of disinterested benevolence,—a subject which has long ago been nearly exhausted, but which must remain for ever interesting to the moral inquirer. His strictures on Hume's account of pride seem to us to be acute and decisive.—Dr. Lloyd's style is clear and unaffected, and often combines simplicity with elegance. We wish, when he gives quotations, that he would cite his authorities more particularly.

Besides these papers, the Journal also contains articles from Mr. Lardner, Dr. Jacob, Sir Charles Giesecke (on the Mineral Substances found in the vicinity of the Giant's Causeway, and on the Beryl found in the County of Down), Mr. Mackay, Mr. Nimmo (on Railways), and from others. Besides these, there are several articles extracted from the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, and other sources, particularly from French works. This practice we cannot approve, unless it be resorted to very sparingly, or in peculiar circumstances. A journal which is to be published only once in the six or eight months, should be able to bring forward new articles, or at least old ones in a new garb. We find also Reviews of several books. That of Venturoli, we consider good: those of "the Young Brewer's Monitor," and of Brown on the Differential Calculus, but indifferent. Nothing dis-

pleases more than an unsuccessful attempt at wit and ridicule; and such expressions as "scientifico-lexicographico-competency," "bravo!" and "Heaven shield us!" are, to say the least, below the dignity of a work of science. The review of Daniell's Meteorological Essays, we consider one of the best articles in the book. It is evidently written by a person who understands the subject; and the reader is not only made acquainted with the merits, and in a considerable degree with the substance of the work reviewed, but he derives new instruction from the article itself. We find, also, a pretty full analysis of the "Annales de Mathematiques" for 1824; the questions in Mathematics proposed at the last October Examinations, in the University of Dublin; an analysis of the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy; and a great variety of interesting scientific information. On the whole, we think favourably of the work; and we trust it will meet more encouragement than is generally extended to Irish publications.

## PRIZE ESSAYS.

The Royal Irish Academy will give, 1. A premium not exceeding £30, to the author of the best Essay "On the Comparative State of the Poor, among the Ancient and Modern Nations;" 2. A premium not exceeding 30 guineas, for the best Essay "On the Origin and Progress of Gothic Architecture, with reference to the Ancient History and Present State of the Remains of such Architecture in Ireland;" 3. A premium not exceeding 30 guineas, for the best Essay in answer to the following queries—"What are the general indications of Metals being in any given place, the lines of direction, extent, and dipping of the veins, deduced from the appearance of the surface, and the occurrence of different metallic substances found combined or associated in veins or beds? What is the medium per centage of the value of the ores hitherto found in Ireland, and the average cost per ton of working and smelting them, with the expense of land and water carriage? It will be necessary that any popular Terminology used by miners be added and explained, and that a section of a regularly worked mine be subjoined." Essays on any of these subjects to be sent, post-free, to the Rev. J. H. Singer, D.D. Secretary, at the Academy House, 114, Grafton-street, before the 1st of November, 1825; each Essay to be inscribed with some motto, and accompanied with a sealed billet, superscribed with the same motto, in which shall be written the author's name and address.

The Academy of Sciences at Paris will give, 1. A gold medal worth 3,000 francs, (£125) for the best Essay on the following subject; "to determine, by multiplied experiments, the density which liquids acquire, and especially mercury, water, al-

cohol, and sulphuric ether, by compressions equivalent to the weight of many atmospheres; and to measure the effects of the heat produced by these compressions." This subject was proposed before, but none of the Essays was considered worthy of the prize. 2. A medal of the same value will be given for "a method of calculating the perturbations of the elliptic motion of comets, applied to the determination of the next return of the comet of 1759, and to the motion of that which has been observed in 1805, 1819, and 1822." 3. Another medal, worth 300 francs, (£12 10) will be given for the best Essay on "*the changes which the circulation of the blood of frogs undergoes in their different metamorphoses!*" The Memoirs on these subjects must be sent to the Secretary of the Institute before the 1st of Jan. 1826.

#### IMPORTANT INVENTION.

A person of the name of Roberts, a collier, in England, has invented an apparatus to enable persons to enter, with safety, rooms filled with suffocating smoke. This apparatus consists of a leathern head-piece, which completely covers the head and face of the wearer, and buckles tight round the neck. Before the eyes there is a piece of glass; and opposite to the mouth, is inserted one end of a leathern tube, the

other end of which hangs nearly to the ground, and has attached to it a tin funnel, which is filled with moistened sponge. Now, suppose the apparatus to be used in a room on fire, the pure air which enters from without being colder, and consequently heavier, than the air already in the room, remains next the floor, and is thus inhaled through the long tube. It is also freed from impure and gaseous matter, which is stopped or condensed by the water in the sponge; and thus the wearer of the apparatus inhales air which is almost pure. In putting this apparatus to the test of trial, the inventor and another person went into the stove of a foundry in Manchester, in which a quantity of cotton waste mixed with sulphur was burning, so that persons without the apparatus would have been instantly suffocated. Of the two individuals provided with the apparatus, however, one staid in ten minutes, and the other twenty, and came out in safety; and similar experiments have been several times made with equal success. This invention may be of great utility, not only in saving articles in case of fire, but even frequently in affording the means of extinguishing the fire, if it be resorted to before the devouring element has gained a complete ascendancy.

### AGRICULTURAL REPORT, FOR MARCH.

THE unusually fine weather, during a great part of the month of February, enabled the farmer to complete his sowing of Wheat, under very favourable circumstances. There seems to be a fair average of ground, under that important crop; and the appearance, both of the early and late sown, is remarkably promising. The first half of the present month was extremely unfavourable for agricultural pursuits; but for some time past, the weather has been very fine, and the sowing of oats is proceeding under the happiest auspices—the seed receiving a dry bed, and the ground harrowing with, what is technically called, a round clod.

This is, unquestionably, the most important season of the year for the agriculturist; as the success of his harvest almost invariably depends upon having his ground sown in *good order*, and with *good seed*. We regret, indeed, to learn, that far too little attention is generally paid to the important article of *seed*. Too many seem to consider that *convenience* and *cheapness* are the principal considerations; and consequently sow what has been growing on their own farms for a series of years; or what they can obtain for the lowest price in their own vicinity, or in the nearest market town. No error can be more fatal to the agricultural prosperity of a country: for, besides diminishing the *quantity* produced, it also deteriorates the *quality* in a very remarkable de-

gree. We have taken pains to converse with several most intelligent farmers, from different parts of the country, upon this subject; and the result of our inquiries has been, that no seed grown upon any farm ought to be sown upon it for more than a *second* crop; and that in changing seed, much care should be taken, to obtain it, both from a soil and climate, differing from those in which it is to be sown. The *quality* of the seed is another most important consideration: *hearty* grain can never be raised from inferior seed. These observations are made, principally as affecting Wheat, Barley, and Oats.

With regard to *Flax-seed* and *Clover-seed*, other considerations mingle with the above. The farmer should not only take great care to obtain a good *quality* of the kind he buys, but he should also be very cautious respecting the *kind* itself. We state it on the authority of most respectable practical agriculturists, both in the counties of Down and Antrim, that in almost all cases, it would be more profitable, in the end, for the farmer to *pay* for Dutch or Riga Flaxseed, than to sow American seed, if it were *bestowed* to him. The same may be said with regard to English Cloverseed, which we know, from experiment, to be superior, both to American and Dutch. We hope these observations may not be altogether unprofitable, at this season of the year.